

PRESS RELEASE

451 West Street, Suite 2 Amherst MA 01002-2999 Voice (413) 253-4300 Fax (413) 253-4347 TDD (413) 253-4590

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE April 5, 2004 CONTACT: MARIL E. ALSUP Public Information Coordinator (413) 253-4314 or maril.alsup@ma.usda.gov

MORTLAKE FIRE COMPANY OF BROOKLYN RECEIVES FEDERAL GRANT

Amherst, MA – USDA Rural Development State Director for Southern New England, David Tuttle announced the award of \$3,000 in grant funds to the Mortlake Fire Company today. The funds will be used to purchase a replacement hydraulic pump for the hydraulic rescue tools that are used on the companies' rescue truck.

The new equipment purchased with Rural Development's Community Facility Grant funds will replace the twenty-three year old apparatus that is currently in use and will ensure fewer break-downs which will enable the Mortlake Fire Company to better respond to Brooklyn's fire safety needs. The updated tools will also allow the fire company to provide mutual aid assistance to surrounding towns in northeastern Connecticut.

"USDA Rural Development is committed to the future of rural communities," said State Director Tuttle. "Our partnership with the Mortlake Fire Company for the purchase of this much needed equipment demonstrates that commitment and helps keep northeastern Connecticut a safe place to call home."

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs in a way that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, Rural Development provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure.



